

From the Summer 2003 Newsletter

FROM THE FIELD

Not long ago, the VA Stars & Stripes Healthcare Network (VISN 4) launched a VISN-wide ***Ethics Roundtable*** to discuss timely clinical, organizational, and research ethics topics. The Roundtable meets quarterly, and attendance is open to any interested participant from within the VISN. Recent topics have included end-of-life issues, as well as the National Ethics Committee report *Ten Myths About Decision-Making Capacity*.

The Ethics Roundtable provides a forum for the Network Director and other interested participants to interact with health care ethics experts on issues that directly affect patient care. It also allows Network leaders to thoughtfully address those issues at the Network level. For example, an Ethics Roundtable discussion on end-of-life care led to the VISN-wide development of patient-focused end-of-life planning.

Networks and facilities that want to address health care ethics issues at an organizational level, such as VISN 4, can find resources through the National Center for Ethics in Health Care's Integrated Ethics Program, scheduled for release this fall. Check our website often for details.